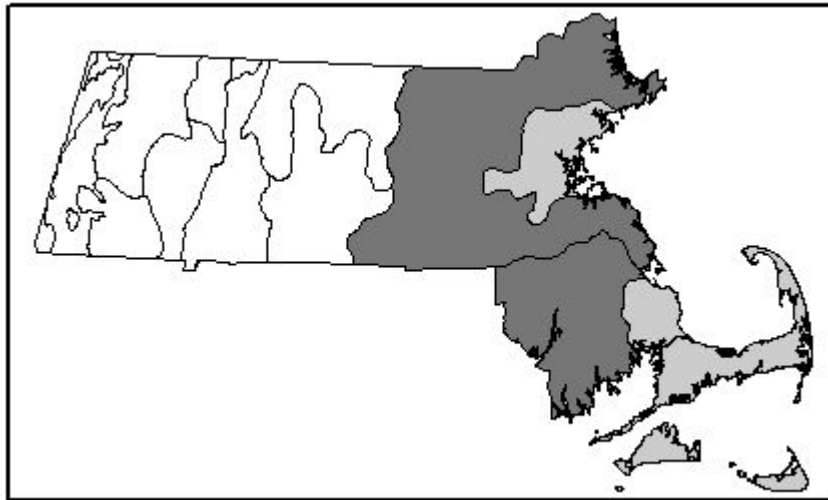


Community Name: ESTUARINE INTERTIDAL: FRESH/ BRACKISH TIDAL SHRUBLAND
Community CODE: CE2C000000
SRANK: S1



Concept: Dense to open shrubland flooded by daily tides, occurring along the freshwater to brackish reach of coastal rivers.

Environmental setting: Normally located as a transition between freshwater tidal marsh and freshwater tidal swamp, there may also be patches of tidal shrublands throughout the freshwater tidal marshes. There is a great deal of micro-relief [tussocks and hollows] leading to high species diversity. Flood waters are typically slightly acid [pH less than 5] and soils are usually mineral without significant peat deposits. Average annual salinity values of less than 0.5 ppt. would be expected in freshwater tidal shrublands, and (0.5) -5 -18 ppt. in brackish tidal swamps.

Vegetation Description: Tidal freshwater, or slightly brackish shrublands dominated by sweet gale (*Myrica gale*) and smooth alder (*Alnus serrulata*) with some speckled alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *rugosa*). Some examples may have a mixed canopy with other shrubs such as silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), swamp-rose (*Rosa palustris*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), common elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), willow (*Salix* spp.), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). More northern examples may contain arrow-wood (*Viburnum dentatum* var. *lucidum*) and meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba* var. *latifolia*). Tussock-sedge (*Carex stricta*) may also be present. Some herbaceous associates are Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis*), marsh-fern (*Thelypteris palustris* var. *pubescens*), bedstraws (*Galium* spp.), common cat-tail (*Typha latifolia*), arrow-arum (*Peltandra virginica*), New York aster (*Aster novi-belgii*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*), and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*).

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: Because the size and structure of the shrubland present are more important to most animals that would use a such a habitat, than are the slight fluctuations in water levels on a daily basis the species present are often those of maritime and coastal shrublands. Coastal shrublands are particularly important to migrating flocks of song birds.

Associated rare plants:

NONE KNOWN

Associated rare animals:

NONE KNOWN

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Examples with Public Access;	North River, Pembroke; Probable along the following: Mashpee River, Mashpee; Red Brook, Mashpee; Sippican River, Marion.		
Threats:	Disruption of tidal influence on the rivers, clearing for boat landings.		
Management needs:			
Synonyms			
USNVC/TNC:	Alnus (incana, serrulata) Tidal Shrubland Alliance -- Alnus (incana ssp. rugosa, serrulata) - Cornus amomum Shrubland [CEGL006337].		
MA (old name):	Part of Southern New England / Gulf of Maine Fresh/ Brackish Tidal Swamp.		
ME:	Not described.		
NH:	Not described.		
NY:	Part of Freshwater Tidal Swamp.		
CT:	Alnus rugosa - Cornus amomum - Iris verticillata community.		
RI:	Not described.		
Other:			
Author:	P. Swain	Date:	6/20/99